

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1907

Improved School Laws for Penn'a.

State Commission Chooses Supt. Schaffer as its Head—Suggestions Invited from Superintendents, School Boards and all Others Interested in Education.

Sweeping reforms are looked for from the labors of the special commission named by the governor of Pennsylvania to revise and codify the school laws in county, town and city, which began its work in Philadelphia.

Dr. Nathan C. Schaffer, president of the Commission, and superintendent of the state schools said: "Philadelphia is the only large city where the appropriations are not given to the Board of Education, and it is a poor system."

Possible recommendations that the commission will make were, however, touched upon lightly. Members discussed the school systems of first, second and third class cities, but came to no definite decision on the question.

The circular letter formulated by the commission is as follows: "The General Assembly of Pennsylvania at its last session provided for the appointment of a commission to collate and reduce to one act all the school laws of Pennsylvania now in force, and to prepare and submit such bills to the Legislature as they shall deem necessary to make the public schools of this Commonwealth more comprehensive, efficient and adapted to the needs of the citizens."

"The members of this commission, by appointment of the governor, desire to call the attention of superintendents, School Boards, teachers and others interested in the problem of education to the importance of the work of the commission, and to enlist their interest and aid in the wise accomplishment of this work."

"For this purpose they invite you to send to this commission any suggestion for the improvement of the school system and school law of the Commonwealth. The commission suggests that you consult leading teachers, and especially teachers' and directors' organizations, and give it the benefit of their experience and views, as well as your own."

"Peeping Toms" in Tree. Sons of Prominent Men Caught Near Select Girls' School.

"Peeping Toms" have been roosting high in the treetops of classic Wayne, and too close to the windows of the Armitage School, a select educational institution exclusively for girls.

Defending the prestige the institution enjoys for its careful guardianship of those entrusted to its training, the school officials recently invoked the offices of Chief Hasket and his police to watch out for trespassers on the grounds.

These officers are cowards. If these young rowdies were poor, or without friends, they would be sent to prison. But belonging to "prominent families," they are allowed to run, disgracing themselves, their fathers and the others of the law.

Signatures of prominent figures.

Catarrh

Whether it is of the nose, throat, stomach, bowels, or more delicate organs, catarrh is always debilitating and should have attention.

The discharge from the mucous membrane is because this is kept in a state of inflammation by an impure condition of the blood. Therefore, to cure, take the best blood purifier, Hood's Sarsaparilla.

In usual liquid form or chocolate tablets known as Sarsatabs. 100 doses \$1.

GERMANY'S SCHOOL BATHS.

Excellent Sanitary Work, and Promotes Good Habits in Children.

School baths are a settled feature of popular school organization in Germany, and of late they have developed into a large sized school problem. No system in use gave entire satisfaction and all the sanitary experts have been busy devising better ones.

The douche has been ineffectual and vapor baths are injurious to many children; tub baths have been frowned upon as tending to spread all sorts of germ diseases; every scheme, of course, had to be economical to have any practical utility.

The latest plan and the one which comes nearest to solving the problem in the judgment of the school authorities is the invention of Karl Hansson, a Berlin sanitary engineer. He proposes to construct batteries of baths, consisting of sixteen circular tubs sunk in the floor of the bathroom, with wide alleys between them in both directions.

The tubs are bowl shaped without any sort of seam or angle and are constructed of cast iron covered with white enamel. Each measures about 30 inches in diameter by 14 in depth. The drain pipe is in the very lowest part of the hollow, so arranged as to draw off every particle of water.

Around the edge of each tub is a copper tube pierced for spray at intervals of two inches throughout its length. The jets are turned backward against the walls of the tub so that they can be used either to fill it or to wash it out thoroughly.

All these tubs are controlled by a single valve and the drainage of the tubs is also led into a single escape pipe, so that the process of emptying, washing and refilling can be performed with a minimum of labor. Over each tub there is a shower.

The bathing drill consists in thorough washing with antiseptic soap in water at a temperature of 99 to 95 degrees. After ten minutes the tubs are simultaneously emptied and the showers are turned on, beginning at the temperature of the bath and cooling to about 60 degrees.

When the children leave the tubs these are thoroughly sprayed out and refilled, the whole process taking about five minutes. Thus in an hour three sets of children, or 48 altogether, can be bathed efficiently and under strictly sanitary conditions, with plenty of time to spare. The consumption of water is about 1,250 gallons an hour and coal about 90 pounds.

Send Your Cow, Steer, and Horse Hides.

Calf, Dog, and other Skins, to the Crosby Frisian Fur Company, Rochester, N. Y., to be converted into Fur Coats, Robes, Gloves, Mittens, or Rugs. They are the largest custom Fur tanners of large wild and domestic animal skins in the world. Send for illustrated catalog. 11-14-07.

Desert Fruit.

In no part of the world do figs attain greater perfection of size and flavor than at the oasis of Palm Springs in the Colorado Desert of southern California. They ripen earlier than elsewhere, and the hundreds of boxes of this fruit sent out annually by whites and Indians are eagerly sought at fancy prices.

Persian and Egyptian dates are grown here, where the climate is almost a duplicate of that in their natural habitat. Oranges, lemons, peaches, plums, grapes, melons, vegetables and profusions of beautiful flowers grow luxuriantly. A graceful desert willow circles velvet meadows where scores of cattle browse.

DR. KENNEDY'S FAVORITE REMEDY

is backed by over 20 years of remarkable success in the cure of Kidney, Liver and Blood troubles, and the diseases peculiar to women. Not a patent medicine, but a prescription used by Dr. David Kennedy in his large and successful practice long before he placed it before the public. The formula is in keeping with strict scientific principles, and many physicians of the highest standing have prescribed Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy for their patients. This statement can be proved absolutely. We have never claimed that Favorite Remedy will cure all cases of Kidney, Liver and Blood diseases and associated ailments, but the fact remains that it has cured many cases practically abandoned by physicians.

MICROBES DESTROY PAPER.

Germans Find They Cause Its Discoloration and Decay.

Germany has been looking into the question why paper does not last forever, and has come to the conclusion that its decay is largely due to bacteria. They injure the texture and destroy the color.

The brownish spots which appear in old books and which are known to English bibliophiles as foxing are really due to the Bacterium prodigiosum. This tiny destroyer is especially fond of starch media; and its propagation is promoted by damp. It has long been known that damp produced foxing, but the share of the microbe in the operation has not hitherto been suspected.

Then there is a tiny fungus or mould, Penicillium glaucum. It is responsible for gray and black marks upon old papers and in spotting the surface it also helps to break down the fabric and hasten the process of its destruction.

There are many other microscopic enemies of paper and they abound chiefly in those which are glazed with gelatine. Given a little moisture and a little heat and these will multiply in the surface of a picture or a diploma on highly finished paper just as they would in the culture tube of a biologist.

Several methods of fighting these bacteria are proposed. One is to substitute for animal glue in water, fine paper glazes made from rosin.

These, it is said, give equally good results and totally defy the invasion of microbes. It is also proposed to introduce chemical agents in the manufacture of paper which are known to be fatal to microbes. This, however, involves many complications.

When the paper is to be used for water color painting and printing in colors, almost all chemicals are barred as they are apt to combine with the pigments in the course of time and completely destroy them. But for ordinary writings papers, small quantities either of bichloride of mercury or of antiseptics of the carbolic class may be introduced without impairing the use of paper for ordinary purposes, whether writing or printing, and at the same time rendering it proof against the ordinary processes of decay.

Fate of the Rubber Gatherer.

Very black is the picture of Kongo life drawn by E. D. Morel. He says: "Out there in the forest, the broken man through the long and terrifying watches of the night—what is his vista in life? Unending labor at the muzzle of the Albinet or the cap-gun; no pause, no rest. At the utmost, if his fortnightly toll of rubber is sufficient, if leaves and dirt have not mingled in too great proportion with the juice, he may find that he has four or five days a month to spend among his household. If so, he will be lucky, for the vines are ever more difficult to find; the distance to travel from his village greater. Then the rubber must be taken to the white man's fine station, and any number of delays may occur before the rubber worker may leave the station for his home. Four or five days' freedom per month—that is the very maximum he can expect. Five days to look after his own affairs, to be with his family, and always under the shadow of the sentry's rifle. But how often in the year will such good fortune attend him?"

"Shortage on one occasion only will entail the lash, or the chain and detention—worse, perhaps, if the white man has a fever or an enlarged spleen that day. And if he finishes! If, starting from an uneasy sleep there in the forest, when shapes growing out of the darkness proclaim the rising of another day, he awakens to the knowledge that his basket is half full, and that he must begin his homeward two days' march betimes not to miss the roll call, his heart falls him, and he turns his face away, plunging into the forest, fleeing from his tormentors, seeking only one thing—blindly to get away from his life and all that it means—what will happen?"

"Well enough he knows. Has he not seen the process with his own eyes? Father, mother or wife will pay for the backsliding in the host-guest house. And whither shall he flee? The forest with its privations by day, its horrors by night. There he must live, seeking such nourishment as roots and berries will afford. Could he gain some other village in the hope that it may be a friendly one? But there the sentry will be also, and his doom as a deserter is sure."

Origin of "Whip Dog Day."

St. Luke's Day is also called Whip Dog Day in the almanacs, which refers us to the quaint offices of dog whipper and sluggard waker, that used to be held generally by one person attached to every church. As late as 1857 there is a record of one of these officials at Dunchurch, who, armed with a wand that had a fork at the end of it, used to go round the church during sermon time and wake the sleepers by croaking it around their necks. Sometimes the wand had a fox's brush at the other end, with which to arouse lady sleepers more courteously. In some places the whip for driving dogs out of church is still preserved; and recently the schoolboys had a custom of whipping the dogs out of the street on St. Luke's Day in a similar way. A curious entry in the Wakefield church accounts runs thus: "1703: For hatts, shoes and hoses, for sexton and dog whipper, 18s 6d."

NIAGARA'S PAST AND FUTURE.

What Geology Proves as to the Life of the Falls.

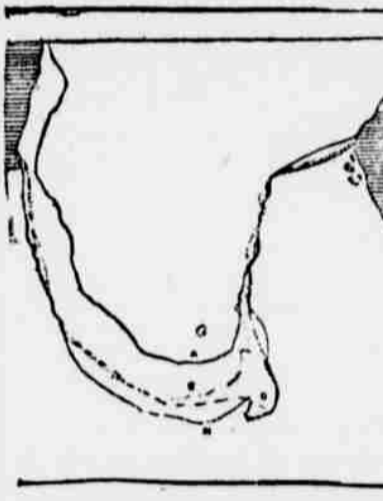
Sir Charles Lyell roughly estimated the time required to cut the seven-mile gorge at about 36,000 years. A survey was first made in 1842, and the exact position of the falls at that time was mapped. Later surveys were made at intervals down to 1890. The position of the Horseshoe Falls at the time of the different surveys is shown in the following sketch:



The average yearly recession for the American falls is .64 foot, that of the Horseshoe 2.18 feet. Thus we may assume that the mean recession of a cataract combining the volumes of both falls, such as existed throughout most of the period of excavation, would be at least three feet a year, and perhaps as much as four or five, says Prof. C. J. Maury in the New York Post.

The way in which the cataract recedes can be seen in both the American and Horseshoe falls today. This is shown in the accompanying sectional view of the Horseshoe falls taken from G. K. Gilbert's work.

The resistant Lockport or Niagara limestone (a) forms the cap. This is underlain by the softer Rochester or Niagara shale (b) which rests upon the harder Clinton limestones and shales (c). These overlie the soft Medina sandstones and shales (d) and (e). The pounding and rebound of the falling waters wear away the comparatively soft sandstone and shale from under the hard limestone cap and result in the formation of temporary caves of which the "Cave of the Winds" is an example. In the course of time the undermining progresses so far that the roof breaks down from lack of support. The crest line of the falls is then suddenly changed and the cave is in ruins. The fallen blocks are subsequently broken up by abrasion and the debris is carried away by the stream. Table Rock, which fell in June, 1850, was a striking example of the falling masses of rock. After such a downfall the undermining process begins anew, and other caves are made and obliterated as the gorge grows upstream.



The birth of Niagara occurred at the close of the last glacial period. This ice invasion marks the close of the tertiary and the opening of the quaternary era of geologic time. For years it has been a matter of controversy whether primitive man existed on this continent in pre-glacial times. The advocates of tertiary man have hoped to find human remains or paleolithic implements beneath the till (rock debris deposited by the ice), but up to the present such relics have not been found in this position. Paleolithic implements have, however, been discovered in glacial gravels (till, later worked over by water). These deposits would be approximately of the same age as Niagara's gorge.

Man thus seems to have existed on this continent at least as long ago as the birth of Niagara falls. This, by an average estimate, we may put at some 20,000 or 25,000 years. The present rate of waste of the banks he measured as over one-fourth of an inch a year, or a total of 610 cubic yards per mile. From this he estimated that 10,000 years would be required for the entire change of the banks since they were first left exposed to the action of the atmosphere by the recession of the falls.

In shooting, as in other sports, thorough luxuriousness is now regarded by modern shooters as a prime necessity of enjoyment. They have their leading done for them, their birds are driven to them and in greatly increased numbers, their luncheon hours are devoted to the best in many courses of food and wine, and they get home by motor as quickly as possible after shooting is over.

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